

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of applying a coating to a substrate comprising:
 - (a) forming a first pattern in said substrate, wherein said substrate is an asphalt surface;
 - (b) providing a first pre-formed thermally settable sheet, wherein said sheet is formed of thermoplastic material;
 - (c) providing at least one further pre-formed thermally settable sheet;
 - (d) placing said first pre-formed sheet and said at least one further pre-formed sheet on said asphalt surface in an aligned configuration; and
 - (e) gradually heating said sheets *in situ* to a temperature sufficient to bond said sheets to said asphalt surface in a configuration conforming to said first pattern.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic material is coated on said asphalt surface in a thickness between 30 - 150 mil.
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim 1, ~~further comprising~~
wherein said heating comprises providing a heating apparatus having a support
frame extending over said sheets and at least one heater mounted on said support
frame, wherein said heater is mounted for movement ~~on~~ relative to said support
frame in a travel path which periodically passes over said sheets to thereby
gradually increase the temperature thereof.
7. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 6, wherein said
sheets are heated to a temperature between approximately 150 - 450 °F.
8. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 7, wherein said
sheets are heated to a temperature between approximately 300 - 400 °F.
9. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said step
of forming said first pattern comprises:
- (a) heating said asphalt surface until said surface is pliable;
 - (b) placing a template on said asphalt surface;
 - (c) imprinting said template into said asphalt surface to form said first pattern;
and
 - (d) removing said template from said asphalt surface.
10. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said step
of forming said first pattern comprises:
- (a) forming said asphalt surface from pliable asphalt;
 - (b) placing a template on said asphalt surface;
 - (c) imprinting said template into said asphalt surface to form said first pattern;
and

- (d) removing said template from said asphalt surface.
11. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein at least said first sheet is formed in a second pattern matching said first pattern and alignable therewith.
12. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein at least said first sheet is subdividable into a plurality of discrete sections.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said sheets are aligned adjacent one another in non-overlapping relation, wherein edges of adjacent sheets are contiguous.
15. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said sheets are aligned adjacent one another in overlapping relation.
16. (Original) The method as defined in claim 14, wherein said first pattern comprises a plurality of impressions simulating grout lines and wherein said edges of adjacent sheets are aligned with said simulated grout lines.
17. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said sheets are aligned such that one of said sheets at least partially surrounds another one of said sheets.
18. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein each of said sheets has a continuous upper surface.
19. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said sheets have at least one opening formed therein.
20. (Previously presented) A method of applying a thermally settable coating to a substrate comprising:

- (a) placing a pre-formed thermally settable sheet on said substrate, said sheet having a first surface in contact with said substrate and a second surface not in contact with said substrate;
- (b) heating said sheet *in situ* to a temperature sufficient for said first surface of said sheet to adhere to said substrate; and
- (c) imprinting said sheet and said substrate to form a first pattern therein, wherein said imprinting step comprises
 - (i) placing a template on said second surface of said sheet;
 - (ii) compressing said template to form an impression in said first pattern in said sheet and said substrate; and
 - (iii) removing said template from said second surface of said sheet to expose said first pattern

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 20, further comprising cooling said second surface of said sheet prior to placing said template thereon to substantially prevent adherence of said sheet to said template.

23. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 20, further comprising applying a bond reduction agent to at least one of said second surface of said sheet and said template to substantially prevent adherence of said sheet to said template.

24. (Original) The method as defined in claim 20, wherein said sheet is formed from thermoplastic material.

25. (Original) The method as defined in claim 24, wherein said substrate is an asphalt surface.

26. (Original) The method as defined in claim 25, wherein said sheet is between approximately 30 - 150 mil in thickness.
27. (Original) The method as defined in claim 26 wherein said sheet is between approximately 50 - 125 mil in thickness.
28. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim 20, ~~further comprising~~ wherein said heating comprises providing a heating apparatus having a support frame extending over said sheet and at least one heater mounted on said support frame, wherein said heater is mounted for movement ~~on~~ relative to said support frame in a travel path which periodically passes over said sheet to thereby gradually increase the temperature thereof.
29. (Original) The method as defined in claim 28, wherein said sheet is heated to a temperature between approximately 150 - 450 °F.
30. (Original) The method as defined in claim 29, wherein said sheet is heated to a temperature between approximately 300 - 400 °F.
- 31-35. (Cancelled)
36. (Currently amended) A method of applying a coating to a substrate comprising:
- (a) forming a first pattern in said substrate, wherein said substrate is an asphalt surface;
 - (b) placing a first pre-formed thermally settable sheet on said substrate, wherein said sheet is formed of thermoplastic material; and
 - (c) heating said sheet *in situ* to a temperature sufficient for said sheet to adhere to said substrate in a configuration conforming to said first pattern,

wherein said sheet comprises a first surface which is placed in contact with said asphalt surface and a second surface which is not placed in contact with said asphalt surface and wherein the step of heating said thermoplastic sheet *in situ* comprises gradually increasing the temperature of said sheet to enable said first surface of said sheet to bond consistently to said asphalt surface, said ~~method~~ further heating comprising providing a heating apparatus having a support frame extending over said sheet and at least one heater mounted on said support frame, wherein said heater is mounted for movement ~~on~~ relative to said support frame in a travel path which periodically passes over said sheet to thereby gradually increase the temperature thereof.

37. (New) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said sheets are placed on said substrate after said first pattern has been formed therein.
38. (New) The method as defined in claim 37, wherein said heating said sheets *in situ* comprises applying heat to said sheets after said placing from a location above said sheets without contacting said sheets.
39. (New) The method as defined in claim 6, wherein said heating apparatus does not contact said sheets during said heating.
40. (New) The method as defined in claim 28, wherein said heating apparatus does not contact said sheet during said heating.
41. (New) The method as defined in claim 36, wherein said heating apparatus does not contact said sheet during said heating.